

Heating issues not attributed to the heater matrix

Valeo Service warranty department have received a number of heater matrix that have not been transferring heat to the cabin with the diagnosis from the garage of not working or core collapsed. After inspection and dismantling of the heater core there are no signs of a failure or malfunction. Upon further investigation the reason for loss of heat is not due to a heater matrix fault but a problem attributed to another part of the system.

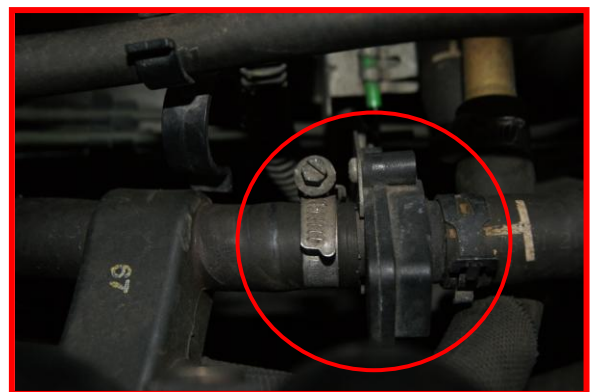
The most common issue Valeo engineers have noted are:

Blockage in the heater circuit – This is when debris from the cooling circuit has moved and clogged inside the smallest bore of the circuit, most commonly the heater circuit. When the coolant is renewed or components of the cooling circuit are changed it is extremely important to fully flush through the system to eradicate any particles that may collect together. This is another important reason for ensuring the coolant is replaced according to the manufacturer's recommended time period.

The heater control valve is faulty or mixer flap has failed - This will give a mis-diagnosis of a faulty heater core but the coolant is not circulating around the matrix or the control flap inside the vent system has failed, causing the circuit that directs air through the heater matrix to remain closed.

If the vehicle is fitted with a heater control valve check it is working correctly by operating the heater dial on the control panel and note if the system is opening and closing fully. If not, adjustment or a new valve will be required. A control flap, due to its location in the ventilation system can be more difficult to test. Some vehicles will require a diagnostic system to ensure the flap is working correctly while others may be able to be checked by visually inspecting the unit and testing whilst removed from its location.

Check heater circuit for blockages



Ensure valve is opening and closing when heat dial is operated

Coolant level has dropped or has recently be refreshed – If the heater matrix has lost performance since a coolant change or coolant was low, the most common reason would be air trapped in the coolant system. To check and eradicate an air lock in the heater circuit, ensure the valve, if fitted, is open then release air by opening the bleed valve. This will be located within the vehicles cooling system, check manufacturer's instructions for location.



Bleed valve is found on nearly all vehicle cooling systems. Check manufacturer's guidelines for location